



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**Committee Bill No. 5608**

LCO No. 3816

\*03816HB05608PH\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CULTURALLY  
AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE STANDARDS IN HEALTH  
CARE SETTINGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 "CLAS standards" means standards 4 to 7, inclusive, of the Culturally
- 3 and Linguistically Appropriate Standards issued by the United States
- 4 Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health
- 5 mandating that language access services be provided by health care
- 6 providers who are recipients of federal funds.
- 7 (b) On or before October 1, 2011, the Commission on Health Equity
- 8 shall establish a comprehensive collaborative committee consisting of
- 9 representatives from various health care entities that shall monitor and
- 10 ensure accountability in the adoption of CLAS standards by health
- 11 care providers receiving federal funds in the state. The collaborative
- 12 committee shall consist of not less than fifteen, nor more than twenty
- 13 members who shall be appointed to serve on the collaborative
- 14 committee based on recommendations from the Commission on
- 15 Health Equity, the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership and

16 the Department of Public Health. The chairpersons of the Commission  
 17 on Health Equity shall select the chairpersons of the collaborative  
 18 committee from among the committee membership. On or before  
 19 January 1, 2012, the chairpersons of the collaborative committee shall  
 20 schedule the initial meeting of the committee. The committee shall  
 21 meet quarterly thereafter or more often as needed at the call of the  
 22 chairpersons.

23 (c) The collaborative committee shall: (1) Prepare quarterly reports  
 24 concerning the adoption of, and compliance with, CLAS standards by  
 25 health care providers in the state; (2) conduct an analysis of the  
 26 number of individuals with limited English proficiency served in  
 27 health care settings and the methods used in such settings to ensure  
 28 compliance with CLAS standards; (3) establish a self-monitoring board  
 29 that ensures culturally competent health care access throughout the  
 30 state; (4) conduct train-the-trainer workshops on best practices in  
 31 implementing and complying with CLAS standards; and (5) annually  
 32 report to the General Assembly on its findings, including a report on  
 33 the challenges of implementing the language access services mandated  
 34 by CLAS standards. In carrying out the duties prescribed in this  
 35 subsection, the collaborative committee shall seek advice and input  
 36 from individuals and entities that are representative of the broad  
 37 spectrum of health care providers in the state.

38 (d) On or before January 1, 2013, and annually thereafter until  
 39 January 1, 2018, the collaborative committee shall report, in accordance  
 40 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its  
 41 activities to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
 42 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, human services  
 43 and insurance and real estate. The collaborative committee shall  
 44 terminate on January 1, 2018.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a collaborative committee that will be charged with monitoring the implementation of, and compliance with, standards 4 to 7, inclusive, of the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.

H.B. 5608